

By Committee on Government Operations,

Senate resolution relating to fiscal notes for bills regarding felonies.

Whereas, the information provided in a fiscal note prepared by the Joint Fiscal Office assists the Senate in conducting its work, and

Whereas, the Joint Fiscal Office is asked to prepare fiscal notes for individual members and for committees of the General Assembly, and

Whereas, the preparation of a fiscal note can be a time-consuming process for the Joint Fiscal Office, which is also responsible for other fiscal research needs of the General Assembly, and

Whereas, it is important to know, at a minimum, whether there will be a fiscal impact from a bill that creates a new felony or which increases the penalty on an existing felony, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont moves to add Rule 32A to the Permanent Rules of the Vermont Senate to read:

32A. A committee report that creates a new felony or which increases the penalty of an existing penalty shall be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared by the Joint Fiscal Office. The fiscal note shall contain an estimate of the effect of the creation of the new felony or of the increase in the penalty on an existing felony upon the expenditures or revenues of the State for the fiscal year in which the bill would take effect if enacted and for the next five

succeeding years. If the effect of the bill's felony provisions is not expected to be totally evidenced within that period of time, the estimate shall be projected beyond that period to include an estimate for the first year in which the felony provisions are expected to affect fully expenditures or revenues. The fiscal note need not address any other provision of the bill and shall be presented by the reporter of the bill. An inaccuracy in a fiscal note or the failure to issue a fiscal note shall not affect the validity of the bill's passage by the Senate.